

LESSON



Sabbath

Do Do this week's activity on page 39.

Dead or Asleep?

Have you ever experienced the death of someone you loved dearly? Did you turn to Jesus for comfort? Even when we can't understand why He is allowing us to go through the pain, we can trust that He has a plan, and we can focus on His power. (See John 11:1-16; The Desire of Ages, pp. 525-527.)

Mary and Martha were worried about their brother, Lazarus. His very high fever had seemed to come on overnight. One day he was busy about his usual business, and the next he was lying in a sweat, practically delirious from fever. The only thing to do was to let Jesus know. Jesus, who was like another brother to them. The One who had healed so many people over the past three years. The sisters wrote out their message and sent it by messenger to where Jesus was

Sunday

Read Read "Dead or Asleep?"

Think What new questions might the disciples have had on the way back to Bethany? What have you always wanted to know about death?

Learn Begin to learn the power text.

Pray Ask God to help you trust Him.

with His disciples. Then they waited with patient faith.

When Jesus received the message, "Lord, the one you love is sick" (John 11:2, NIV), He responded calmly, "This sickness will not end in death" (verse 4, NIV). The messenger waited for Jesus to say or write something else. But He turned His attention to other things. Obviously the Master was not planning to return to Bethany right now, so the messenger hurried back without Him.

Monday

Read Read John 11:1-16.

Ask Ask an adult to share the details of a time they faced death or suffering and chose to find comfort in Jesus.

Pray Ask God to help you trust Him even when you don't understand.

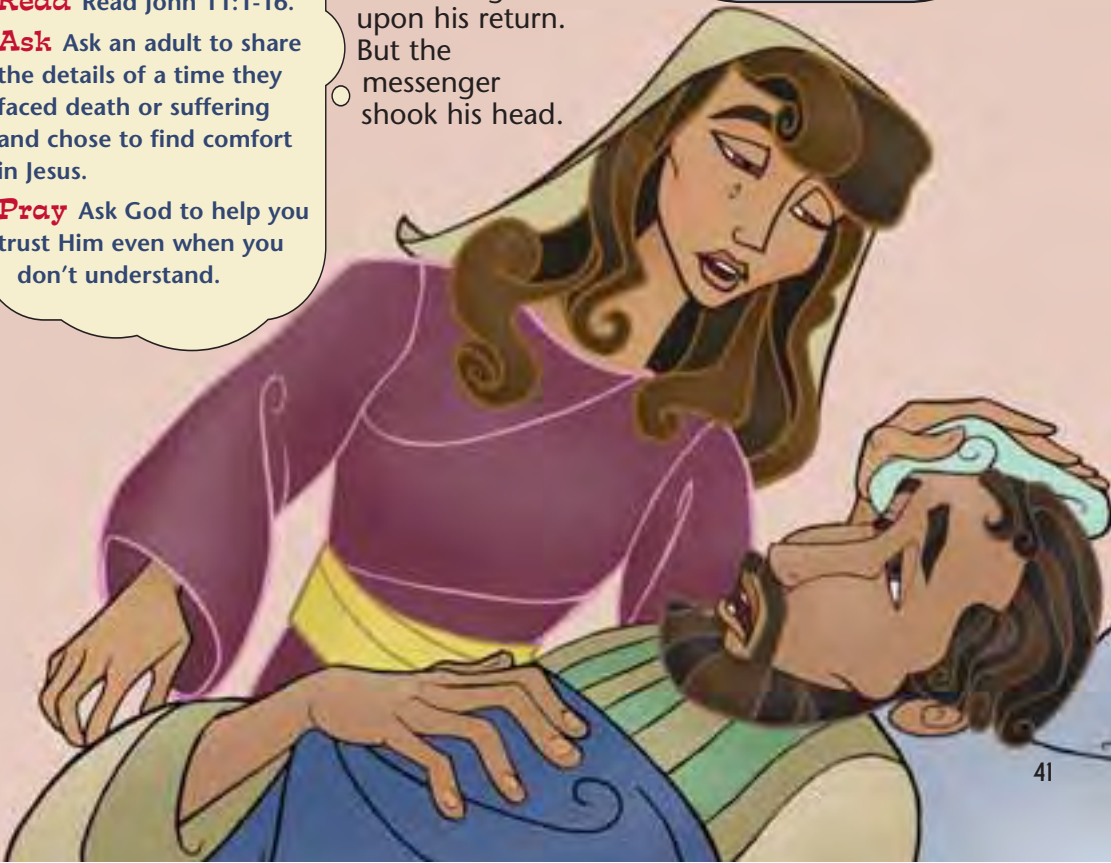
"Where is Jesus?" the sisters asked the messenger upon his return. But the messenger shook his head.

Jesus gives me peace when I face suffering and death.

POWER TEXT

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God"

(Job 19:25, 26, NIV).



"The Master says, 'This sickness will not end in death,'" he replied.

Mary and Martha were overjoyed at the news. Tenderly they tried to relay the message to their almost unconscious patient. Eagerly they watched for signs of his recovery. Bitterly disappointed, they watched Lazarus die. In their grief they were comforted by grace from Jesus. Not once did they doubt or blame Him.

The disciples, on the other hand, were puzzled by Jesus. He seemed a little cold to them. They remembered when He hadn't responded to the imprisonment of His cousin John. Why not? Why did He not rush

Tuesday

Read Read Job 19:25-27.

Talk Talk with a grandparent or an older adult. Read today's verses to them. Ask them what the verses mean to them.

Write In your Bible study journal, write about your conversation. Or, if you didn't have one, write about your reactions to verse 27. How do you feel about what it says?

Pray Thank God that He has conquered death.



back to Bethany? Why did He go on teaching as if nothing had happened? They knew what a comfort His presence would be to the family He loved so much. His behavior was a mystery to them.

For two more days Jesus went about His business. He didn't once mention Lazarus.

Jesus' enemies, the Pharisees, also had noticed that Jesus had not rescued John the Baptist. To them it was a sure sign that He wasn't who He claimed to be—the Son of God. "If He is the Son of God, if He has so much power," the Pharisees reasoned, "how come He let His cousin die? How come He did not heal His friend?"

For the disciples, it was a troubling two days. Jesus had been talking about trials, losses, and persecution. Would He forsake them during those trying times the way He seemed to have forsaken John and Lazarus?

After two days on the other side of the Jordan Jesus turned back toward Bethany. Even though they wanted Jesus to comfort His friends, the disciples were alarmed. "This is where the Jews tried to stone You," they reminded Jesus. "Are You sure You want to go back to

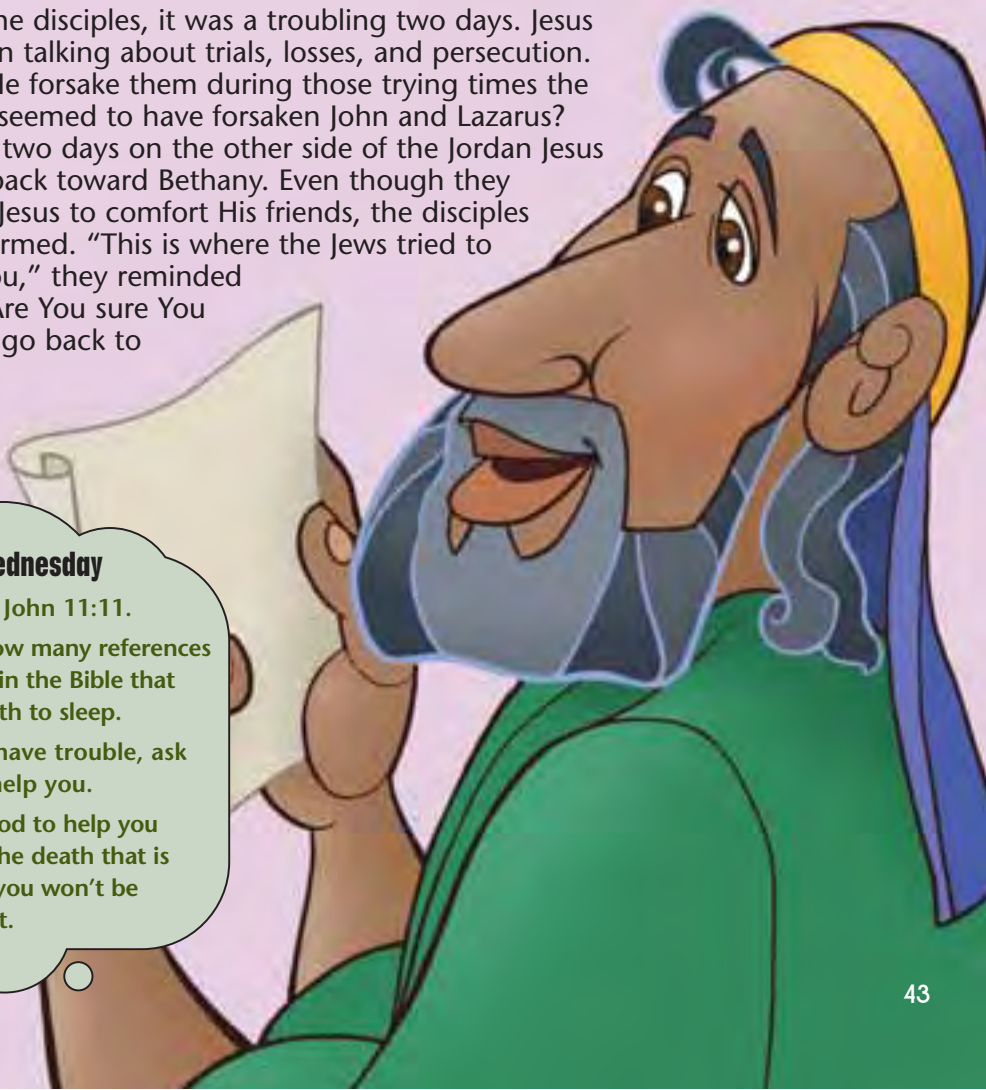
Wednesday

Read Read John 11:11.

Find See how many references you can find in the Bible that compare death to sleep.

Ask If you have trouble, ask an adult to help you.

Pray Ask God to help you understand the death that is like sleep so you won't be afraid of it.



Bethany?" But Jesus was not worried for Himself; the Holy Spirit was leading Him.

"Lazarus is sleeping," He explained. Now the disciples were more puzzled than ever. If Lazarus was sleeping, that would be a good sign for his recovery. They didn't understand that Jesus was talking not about a natural sleep, but about death.

"Lazarus is dead," Jesus explained further. He added: "I am so glad I did not go sooner, for your sake, so you would believe. Come; let's go."

The disciples turned with Jesus toward Bethany. They didn't understand why Jesus was allowing His friends to face suffering and death, but they trusted that He had everything under control.

Thursday

Sing Sing the power text to the tune you learned in Sabbath School last week, or make up your own tune.

Watch If possible, watch a young child while they are sleeping.

Pray Thank God that He has compared death to a sleep. Ask Him to give you peace about the death of loved ones that you have faced, or will face.



Friday

Share Share what you have studied this week with your family at worship.

Recite Recite your power text. Try to learn and recite verse 27 as well.

Sing Read through the verses of "Face to Face" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, No. 206). Sing it together.

Talk Talk about how the words to this song go with your power text and this week's lesson.

Pray Praise God together that He wants to comfort and strengthen you with His grace, face to face.

